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that is alleged, and whether it is true that work has to be stopped. Whether the damage is much or small, we will try to minimise it as much as possible. This is my assurance to the poor sugarcane-growers. Hon. Members on the opposite side as also on this side are interested in the matter and the House may rest assured that everything that is possible will be done."

Revision of the price of paddy.

* 4 *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have recommended to the Central Government, raising the price of paddy, and if so, why?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This Government had recommended to the Government of India an increase in the procurement price of paddy for the khariff year 1951–52 for the following reasons :—

(1) The cost of production had increased;

(2) Prices of essential commodities other than foodgrains had increased;

(3) Procurement prices in Madras State were lower when compared to the other deficit States in the Indian Union causing a lot of heart-burning to the producers in this State. Protests against such discrimination were made in the Legislature and the Press;

(4) A stimulus in the shape of increase in the price of foodgrains was necessary for the success of the Grow More Food Campaign and also to arrest the tendency on the part of producers to switch over to commercial crops for which higher prices were prevailing; and

(5) The Government of India increased the pool prices of imported paddy and Orissa State was charging higher prices for its rice exports to this State.

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" Does not this increase in the price of paddy increase the price to the consumer? Was the purchasing capacity of the consumer taken into consideration? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The increase was only annas eight per maund and it was not considerable."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that the heavy export charges which the P.C.C. Societies impose are one of the reasons for the increase in the price of rice? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I don't think that factor has got anything to do with this, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, what the rates recommended to, and agreed by the Central Government were? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We recommended an increase of 10 per cent and the Central Government agreed to eight annas which works out to about 6¼ per cent."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Hon. Minister was saying that the prices of other commodities had increased and hence the price of paddy also was increased. May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that the prices of coconuts, arecanuts and other commodities in Malabar have gone down much and in view of this, is it not fair that the price of paddy also should be reduced? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that was only a temporary decrease and we can review the price of paddy when the prices of other commodities get stabilised."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Are the Government satisfied that the increased price would go to the actual cultivators and not to the middlemen and the absentee landlords? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We are paying this price to whoever sells the paddy to us."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The question was whether the Government would take steps to see that this increased price goes to the actual producer and not to somebody else. Instead of saying that they will pay the increased price to whoever comes before them, will the Government take steps to see that the price goes only to the producer? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, under the procurement system, it is only the producer from whom the paddy is procured. Therefore, it can be presumed that the price goes to the producer only."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Whom does the Government understand by the term ' producer '—the man who actually tills the land or the landlord? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whoever produces paddy, Sir."

Payment of salaries to Members of the Legislature.

* 5 *Q*.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi, the then Minister for Finance, stated at a press conference in January 1952, that the newly elected Members of the Assembly, under the new Constitution, will be paid salary as from the day they were declared to have been elected;

(*b*) whether there is a proposal to pay salaries to Members of the Legislative Assembly as from 21st April 1952 instead of from the date they were declared elected; and